PROGRESSION NORTH OF TWO SPECIES OF ROVE BEETLES IN CALIFORNIA (COLEOPTERA: STAPHYLINIDAE)

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In 1901, Henry Clinton Fall published his well known list of the beetles of southern California. Among the 2197 species were certainly included all of the common species not only from that region but from the state as a whole. Fall gave the extent of range of all of the species known to him. *Platystethus spiculus* Erichson was not included in the list. Of *Philonthus alumnus* Erichson, Fall stated, "the form with the red thorax and elytra is very common at Yuma on the river shore."

Platystethus spiculus was originally described from Venezuela and first reported in the United States from Texas by Casey (1886). It was first reported from San Diego County, California by Moore (1937) and later was found in most of the counties of southern California (Legner and Olton, 1970). Moore and Legner (1971) reported it from as far north as Stanislaus County in central California where the species is now common.

Philonthus alumnus was described from Puerto Rico and has been known for nearly a century from Mexico and most of the southern half of the United States. Horn (1884) reported it from as far west as Arizona. Specimens in the collection of the University of California at Riverside are from most of the desert counties of southern California, western Riverside County (San Jacinto, 1958), Kern County (1958) and from Sutter and Butte Counties in the Sacramento Valley (1968). All 3 color phases listed by Horn (1884:199) are among the California material.

Platystethus spiculus is synanthropic in California, being found most abundantly in accumulated manure in such places as dairies rather than in isolated field droppings. It could be speculated that it has spread because of the increase in its available habitat due to population rise in California and consequent proliferation of dairies. However, this is probably not the case. In Fall's time horses were the main mode of transportation and stables were found almost everywhere. Fall mentioned many species of Staphylinidae being found particularly in manure around stables which would have provided a very suitable habitat for this species.

Philonthus alumnus is found under cover near water and is attracted in large numbers to lights. It should have been found throughout its present range at the turn of the century if conditions had been suitable for it. It seems most likely that a gradual progressive increase in average temperature has made it possible for these species to extend their range through southern California and northward into the central valleys of California.

Literature Cited

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A SECOND CORRECTION TO THE KEY TO THE SUBFAMILIES OF THE NEARCTIC STAPHYLINIDAE

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In my key to the subfamilies of the Nearctic Staphylinidae (Moore 1964) an exception was found which required a restatement of couplet 12 (Moore 1967). Another exception has been found which can be corrected by inserting an additional couplet after couplet 13. The exception involves the genus *Conosomus* in the subfamily Tachyporinae. Couplet 13 separates 2 subfamilies whose members lack abdominal paratergites from 15 other subfamilies, including Tachyporinae, which key out as having paratergites. Members of the genus *Conosomus* lack paratergites and so would erroneously be keyed to the wrong part of the couplet. This may most easily be corrected by inserting an additional couplet (13a) after couplet 13 as follows:

13. Abdomen without paratergites 13a

Abdomen with paratergites 15

13a. Hypomera not visible from the side .... *Conosomus* (Tachyporinae)

Hypomera visible, at least in part, from the side 14

Literature Cited

Moore, Ian. 1964. A new key to the subfamilies of the Nearctic Staphylinidae and notes on their classification. Coleopt. Bull. 18:83-91; 13 Fig.

Moore, Ian. 1967. Corrections to my key to the subfamilies of the Nearctic Staphylinidae. Coleopt. Bull. 21:93.

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